DEMAND VII—PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT INCLUDING WATER WORKS AND DRAINAGE.

MR. I. C. CHACKO (*Chief Engineer*): Sir, I rise to move for a grant of Rs. 3,340 under Demand VII—Public Works Department including Water Works and Drainage. Part of this amount is meant for the construction of a kitchen at the Oollampara Barracks. The kitchen for the Police at Oollampara is housed in a group of old buildings. The present accommodation in the kitchen is inadequate and it is very necessary to provide an additional kitchen. Similarly there are no permanent latrines at present. There are only temporary latrines made with bamboos and they are renewed every now and then. It is proposed to construct a permanent latrine at a cost of Rs. 2,700. I move that the House may be pleased to grant the amount for these purposes.

The motion was put and carried, and the grant was made.

DEMAND IX—COMMERCIAL TRANSPORT.

MR. E. G. SALTER: Sir, I move for a supplementary grant of Rs. 4,00,000 under Demand IX—Commercial Transport and in anticipation of the questions which will naturally be raised by honourable members, may I be permitted to make a few observations? It was anticipated at the time of the preparation of the 1118 Budget that before the end of 1118 all the buses of the Transport Department would be converted for operation on charcoal. But unfortunately we have not come anywhere near it. It is necessary that the engines should be in perfect condition when the conversion is made. But accessories and spare parts are not available, we now have to make them, including even the pistons and cylinder liners. So, instead of being able to turn out three engines a week, it took 10 days to overhaul one. That is one reason.

Secondly, owing to the shortage of sugar in South India, the Government of Madras found it expedient to prevent the export of jaggery. Therefore the Travancore Sugar Factory ceased to function, and consequently the supply of alchohol which the Department used to get was stopped. The price of fuel also went up. There was considerable difficulty to obtain charcoal. Some contractors failed to supply and the price was going up day by day. We were competing with the South India Railway Company who are purchasing very large quantities of firewood. We found difficulty in getting sufficient charcoal in running our vehicles. It is hoped that we shall not spend the whole of the Rs. 4,00,000 but it is necessary for the amount to be available to meet emergencies. I submit to the honourable members that the amount may be granted.

MR. M. R. NARAYANA PILLAI: May I know the total expenses so far met out of the budget allotment of 1118 for the Commercial Department?

MR. E. G. SALTER.: I regret I must claim notice.

MR. M. R. NARAYANA PILLAI: How many vehicles are there fitted with charcoal gas plant?

MR. E. G. SALTER: 51.

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MR. M. R. NARAYANA PILLAI; How many of such vehicles do run on petrol?

MR. E. G. SALTER: None.

MR. M. R. NARAYANA PILLAI: Is the Director's car fitted with charcoal gas plant?

MR. E. G. SALTER: Yes.

MR. M. R. NARAYANA PILLAI: Is it run on petrol or on charcoal gas?

MR. E. G. SALTER: On charcoal gas?

MR. M. R. NARAYANA PILLAI: Is not the car supplied by Government?

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: Sir, I rise to a point of order as to whether that question is relevant.

MR. M. R. NARAYANA PILLAI: According to the covenant, the Director's car has to be supplied by Government.

How many of the vehicles belonging to the Transport Department are in proper running order?

MR. E. G. SALTER: About 110.

MR. M. R. NARAYANA PILLAI: Sir, I may not be understood to be cross-examining.

PRESIDENT: Not at all, although you are actually cross-examining (*Laughter*).

MR. M. R. NARAYANA PILLAI: Does not the charcoal gas plant contribute to the speedier deterioration of the vehicles generally due to its weight, etc.?

MR. E. G. SALTER: No, Sir.

MR. M. R. NARAYANA PILLAI: What is the reason?

PRESIDENT: So long as honourable members are thirsting for information, their thirst will be satisfied. But if they want discussion and discretion, it will not be allowed.

MR. M. R. NARAYANA PILLAI: I beg the Chair's pardon. What is the reason for stopping further conversion of petrol engines to charcoal gas engines?

MR. E. G. SALTER: It has not been stopped.

MR. M. R. NARAYANA PILLAI: The Director of Transport stated on the floor of the House just a little while ago that petrol driven buses were converted to charcoal gas driven buses at the rate of 4 per month and that the number is now reduced.

MR. E. G. SALTER: We were converting more than 4 per month. But now it is only one.

MR. M. R. NARAYANA PILLAI: May I know whether it is not the policy of the Imperial Government and the Government of India that no machines should be put on the road unless it is fitted with gas plants?

PRESIDENT: No, no. Firstly, the Imperial Government has not made any such rule. Secondly, even if the Imperial Government ask us to follow that rule, we shall disobey that promptly.

MR. M. R. NARAYANA PILLAI: Whenever petitions are presented for permits for new buses, the reply given is that unless the vehicle is fitted with gas plant, permit cannot be given.

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PRESIDENT: On account of the shortage of iron and steel materials and other things the policy of the Government of India is, as far as possible, to encourage the production of gas driven vehicles. But that is quite different from laying down a general rule and asking other States to follow that rule.

MR. M. R. NARAYANA PILLAI: Now that there is petrol rationing, may I know from where the Director expects to get Rs. 4,00,000 worth of petrol?

MR. E. G. SALTER: From the usual source.

PRESIDENT: The Government of India has been very kind in that respect. They have realised that in a State like Travancore which is denied other means of communication, where there are not many bullock carts and where horses do not thrive on account of the climate, the only refuge is petrol driven cars. Therefore, they have been pleased to allow us just the sufficient quantity of petrol. But that does not mean that we can be extravagent. We have done very much better than other units.

The motion was put and carried and the grant was made.

DEMAND XIX—EDUCATION EXCLUDING GRANT TO THE TRAVANCORE UNIVERSITY.

MR. A. GOPALA MENON (*Director of Public Instruction*): Sir, I rise to move for a Supplementary Grant of Rs. 69,972 under Demand XIX—Education excluding Grant to the Travancore University, for additional expenditure under Grant-in-aid to Malayalam and Tamil Schools. Sir, the position of certain primary classes both in Primary and Secondary Schools has been very unsatisfactory because funds were not available to give aid under the rules to the teachers of those classes. Up to 1115 an attempt was made to utilise the available resources to award fresh grants and even at that time it was only possible to award grants to classes which have been recognised before 1111. Grants could not be given owing to the inadequacy of funds and as a result of subsequent deliberations Government have now decided to grant aid to the teachers of those primary classes in Primary Schools as well as Secondary Schools who are eligible for aid under the rules. The number of such teachers who deserve aid is not as many as those that are actually employed and the amount required for the purpose has been calculated only for those that deserve aid. That is, 822 teachers alone can be given aid this year according to the rules. As I said, the grant falls under two sections; under primary and middle schools. In primary schools the amount required is Rs. 62,236 and in the Middle Schools, Malayalam and Tamil school education, the amount is Rs. 7,736. In all, therefore, I move that Government be granted a supplementary demand of Rs. 69,972.

MR. P. SIVARAMA PILLAI: May I know whether all recognised schools will be given grants?

MR. A. GOPALA MENON: All recognised schools, recognised and complete before Adi 1117.

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